

CLAIMS

Claims 1-23 (Canceled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method for routing network traffic, comprising:

receiving the network traffic;

determining a destination for the network traffic;

obtaining intelligence on the network from a map of the network, the map being produced as a result of:

determining at least one route through the network which includes the destination, using a particular IP address associated with the destination;

identifying ~~any~~ one or more intermediate hosts contained within the route between a source of the network traffic and the destination, using a particular IP address associated with the source, the particular IP address associated with the destination and a particular IP address associated with ~~each~~ the one or more intermediate hosts;

determining a geographic location of the source, a geographic location of the destination, and the geographic location of the one or more intermediate hosts, wherein the source, the destination, and the one or more intermediate hosts are each located in a different area of the same country, and wherein an area is at least one of a city, county, state, zip code, area code, or region;

analyzing interconnections between nodes in the network, using the particular IP address associated with each node; and

storing results of the analyzing in the map; and

directing the network traffic to a ~~desired~~ the destination based on the intelligence on the network stored in the map.

Claims 25-26 (Canceled).

27. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 24 wherein intelligence includes a connection speed associated with the source.

28. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 24 wherein intelligence includes bandwidth available at the destination.

29. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 24 wherein intelligence includes bandwidth available at the destination and a connection speed associated with the source.

30. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 24 wherein the intelligence includes a latency time associated with the destination.

31. (Original) The method as set forth in claim 24, wherein the intelligence includes information on loads at different destinations.

32. (Currently Amended) A method for routing network traffic by a routing device, comprising:

- receiving the network traffic at the routing device;

- determining a destination for the network traffic;

- obtaining geographic information on one of a source or the destination associated with the network traffic from a map of the network, the map being produced as a result of:

 - determining a route through the network which includes one of the destination or source;

 - deriving a geographic location of any one or more intermediate hosts contained within the route through the network, using a particular IP address associated with ~~each~~ the one or more intermediate hosts;

 - analyzing the route and the geographic locations of any the one or more intermediate hosts, using the particular IP address associated with each intermediate host;

 - determining the geographic location of the source or destination, using the particular IP address associated with the source or destination; and

 - storing the geographic location in the map; and

 - directing the network traffic by the routing device to a desired destination based on the geographic location of the source or destination and the geographic location of the one or more

intermediate hosts, and wherein the source, the destination, and the one or more intermediate hosts are each located in a different area of the same country, and wherein an area is at least one of a city, county, state, zip code, area code, or region.

33. (New) A method for routing network traffic, comprising:

receiving the network traffic at a router;

determining a geographic location of the router using an IP address of the router;

determining a destination for the network traffic;

determining a geographic location of the destination using an IP address of the destination;

determining a first route to the destination, the first route comprising at least a first intermediate routing device;

deriving a geographic location of the first intermediate routing device using an IP address of the first intermediate routing device;

determining a second route to the destination, the second route comprising at least a second intermediate routing device;

deriving a geographic location of the second intermediate routing device using an IP address of the second intermediate routing device;

selecting a route from one of the first route or the second route using the geographic location of the destination, the geographic location of the router, the geographic location of the first intermediate routing device, and the geographic location of the second intermediate routing device, wherein the destination, the router, and the first and second intermediate routing devices are each located in a different area of the same country, and wherein an area is at least one of a city, county, state, zip code, area code, or region; and

directing the network traffic along the selected route to the destination.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein receiving the network traffic comprises receiving a domain name service inquiry.

35. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the network traffic comprises a request and the destination comprises a server.
36. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the selecting step further comprises selecting a route with a shortest distance to the destination.
37. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the selecting step further comprises selecting a route having the shortest latency time.
38. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the selecting step further comprises selecting a route having the most available bandwidth.
39. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein determining a destination comprises selecting a destination because it has content associated with a geographic location of a source of the network traffic.
40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the content is advertising content.
41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the content is promotional content.
42. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the content is in a language associated with the geographic location of the source.
43. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein determining a destination comprises selecting a destination based on its load.
44. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein determining a destination comprises selecting a destination based on a connection speed associated with a source of the network traffic.

45. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein determining a destination comprises selecting a destination based on bandwidth available at the destination.

46. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein determining a destination comprises selecting a destination based on a connection speed associated with a source of the network traffic and the bandwidth available at the destination.

47. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the selecting step further comprises selecting a route based on interconnection speeds within the network.

48. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising analyzing interconnections between routing devices in the network.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein analyzing comprises modeling behavior of the network.

50. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein modeling comprises approximating the behavior at routing devices in the network.

51. (New) The method of claim 49, wherein modeling comprises simplifying the map of the network by combining routing devices in traffic routes.

52. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the network comprises the Internet and the network traffic comprises packets.

53. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising assigning a confidence level to one or more geographic locations determined using an IP address.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein a high confidence level is assigned when the IP address is associated with a modem.

55. (New) The method of claim 53, wherein a confidence level is assigned based on the confidence level assigned to one or more neighboring geographic locations.

56. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising assigning a confidence level to one or more geographic locations determined using an IP address.